MUSI 3315.001: Recording Techniques
Dr. Brian R. Thacker
Fall Semester 2014
Phone: (361) 825-3291
T/TH 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
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Location of Class: PAC 306
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an examination of the art of audio recording. The curriculum will cover signal flow of the mixing console as it applies to both recording and sound reinforcement; microphones and techniques of application; use of sonic effects; recording devices (Digital, and Hard Disk); synchronization formats; etc.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the basic requirements for audio recording
2. Become familiar with audio recording techniques for various genres
3. Demonstrate working knowledge of audio processors
4. Be able to pass the Pro Tools 110 portion of the Pro Tools Operator-Level Certification test

REQUIRED TEXT & MATERIALS


BLACKBOARD ACCESS

This class utilizes Blackboard technology for assignments and supplemental materials. Students needing access instructions or help with Blackboard can refer to the Island Online website (http://distance-education.tamucc.edu). Be sure and check the Student Resources Link (https://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html) which includes useful documents such as Steps to Preparing Your Computer for Blackboard (https://distance-education.tamucc.edu/techreq.html).
TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments and readings will be given as new concepts and principles are discussed in class. The topics and assignments will cover:

- The role of the audio engineer in a recording setting
- The methods used to capture audio with a digital audio workstation
- Developing a working knowledge of microphones
- Explaining signal flow in a basic recording studio system
- Explaining the roles of various components in a recording studio system
- Developing a working knowledge of signal gain structure
- Describing the importance of MIDI and synchronization
- Developing a working knowledge of analog signal processors
- Developing a working knowledge of digital signal processors
- Explaining the process of recording mix automation

EXAMINATIONS

There will be a mid-term and a final examination (comprehensive of the entire semester). The main purpose of the examinations is to verify that the students comprehend the techniques and principles taught in class and can readily apply them in a short period of time.

GRADING PROCEDURES & POLICIES

Assessment of the student's work is based on the following criteria:

- Command and application of the material covered in the classroom.
- Command of terminology.
- Comprehension of the studio as a whole.
- The ability to utilize the equipment correctly and effectively in a timely manner as needed in the recording/mix down session.

GRADING SYSTEM

The student's final grade will be drawn from grades received for each component of the course:

Pro Tools Tutorial Assignments 30%
Recording Sessions 30%
Listening/Ear Training Assignments 20%
Mid-Term Exam – Written 10%
Final Exam – Written 10%

COURSE OUTLINE

This is subject to change, dependent on the needs and progress of the class.

ATTENDANCE
Since every class is essential, attendance is necessary for success. If you must miss class due to an illness or emergency, please call me, or leave a message on my voice mail prior to class. After 3 absences, each unexcused absence will drop your final grade 4 percent.

**** After 6 absences, your grade will be an automatic F. ****
This is a music department policy.

Perfect attendance will be rewarded with 4 percent being added to your final grade. Only one absence will be rewarded with 2 percent being added to your final grade. Tardiness will count as 1/2 an absence. Leaving early will count as 1/2 an absence.

Notice to Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible. Please have your accommodation letter from Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi Disability Services (DS) Office with you when you come see me. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Disability Services Office (located in 116 Corpus Christi Hall) at 361.825.5816.

Academic Advising: The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

Grade Appeals Process: Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.